

Report Accompanying the Presentation
of
BLOOMFIELD WAR RECORDS
to the Library.

Bloomfield was a pioneer in making an organized effort to collect the local story of the troubled years through which we have passed. The first step was taken before we entered the war, as a part of the program laid out in connection with the organization, on December 20, 1940, of the Civil Defense Council, later called the Bloomfield Defense Council. That organization was disbanded on December 12, 1945. The records pertaining to the work of the Bloomfield Defense Council from December 20, 1940 to December 12, 1945, were collected in two scrap-books which were presented, by your historian, to the Bloomfield Public Library on May 7, 1946. A full account of the presentation will be found in the Independent Press of May 10, 1946.

The New Jersey War Records Commission was set up early in 1943 by Governor Charles Edison, and local historians were designated in the 563 municipalities of the state. The task of these "historians" was not to write history but to collect material showing the activities of various groups and organizations in war time and the effect of the impact of war on the life of the community. Local public libraries were to be the depositories of the records. This broadened the scope of the work already begun in connection with the activities of the Bloomfield Defense Council, and it was deemed best to keep the two records separate and running parallel. As previously indicated, the records relating to the Bloomfield Defense Council have already been turned over to the Library.

Accompanying the present report are the records gathered and assembled by your historian in response to the request of the New Jersey War Records Commission. The records thus gathered comprise four scrap-

books of miscellaneous material. In addition there are numerous reports, some in the form of books (numbered 5 to 9) of various groups and organizations compiled and written by members thereof.

Scrap-books Nos. 1 and 2 contain newspaper and magazine clippings from May 17, 1943 to the end of the war, and also the record of the welcome home celebration of July 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1946.

Scrap-book No. 3 contains a collection of Bond Drive Posters, and many photos showing Bond Drive Activities carried on in Bloomfield, all donated by the Bloomfield Savings Institution. Copies of the Legionnaire, the magazine of the Bloomfield American Legion, will also be found in this book.

Scrap-book No. 4 contains a collection of various circulars of local civic and municipal organizations, greeting cards, honor rolls, etc. etc.

Annexed to this report is an appendix, in which reference is made to various groups and organizations, and which, in addition, contains summaries of reports sent in by many of them.

Reports from other organizations can be deposited with the Library at any time.

It must be borne in mind, in reading the appendix, that practically every member of each organization or group was a member of one or more other organizations or groups.

The list contained in the appendix is as follows:

American Legion (see Book No. 3)
Animal League
Art League

Bank and Trust Company (see Book No. 8)
Bundles for America (see Book No. 9)

Chamber of Commerce
Churches

Daughters of the American Revolution

Federation of Music

Girl Scouts

Jewish Organizations (see Book No. 7)

Kiwanis

Library

Moms' Club

Nurses Registry (see Book No. 6)

Recreation Department
Red Cross (see Book No. 5)

Savings Institution (see Book No. 3)
Schools (see Books Nos. 1 and 2)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Woman's Club of Bloomfield
Woman's Club of Brookdale

The war records thus assembled constitute the story of the people of Bloomfield in war time, as told by themselves. The reports submitted are highly diversified, ranging, as they do, from statistics to the touching story of the dog whose life was spared so that it might greet its master when he returned home. The surprising thing is not the diversity, but that, out of the apparent diversity, there emerges a basic pattern: an utter lack of self-consciousness on the part of the people who were engaged in the different activities. It apparently did not occur to them that something remarkable had been done, or that they were entitled to any particular credit.

Bloomfield wears a garment of pure homespun over her heart.

Secretary

Barbara Jenie

Historian

Edith Becken

Appendix to
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AMERICAN LEGION

Scrap book No. 3 contains copies of "THE LEGIONNAIRE" the publication of Bloomfield American Legion. They tell, from month to month, the activities of their members at home and abroad. Because of the personal knowledge of the problems of men who had served in the different branches of the Armed Forces, Legionnaires were able to carry on at home with an efficiency and sympathy gained by experience.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

We read, many times during the war, of the wonderful "Canine" group of the Army and the devotion of the soldiers to their dog companions. Our Animal League tells its story of dogs here at home. A sample case from the report is as follows:

"The war brought many readjustments; families scattered and shifted and food was not easy to get. Many soldiers and families turned to the League to help solve the problem of what to do with their pets. Some we took over and placed in good homes. But there were cases such as that of the sad faced woman who appeared with a dog - beloved pet of her son a Marine in the Pacific. She must give up her home for a less expensive one which will not be available for three or four months. Meanwhile relatives will take her in but not the dog. But she has promised her boy that she will keep his dog until he comes back. The League boarded the dog for four months and it was at home to greet the soldier on his return".

THE BLOOMFIELD ART LEAGUE

The following paragraph opens the report on the War Activities of The Bloomfield Art League.

"Thru the difficult years of WorldWar II, The Bloomfield Art League continued to function in spite of difficulties; there were shortages of teachers and materials. But the trustees of the League felt its doors must be kept open for the adults who were artistically inclined, and who wanted to paint and sketch as a relaxation from War Work, and as a relief from tension for many who had loved ones in service'.

The report says that the League kept in touch with its members in service and sent to them art supplies in the way of paints, water color, paper sketch pads and pencils. The League was proud to follow the members whose abilities were recognized and put to service in the war effort. A former president "did constructive work in the field of camouflage". When the acting president was called he too was "employed in the Navy to do Art Work".

An exhibition of painting by service men was arranged and hung in the Library. The families of the boys who exhibited were invited to the showing and the Tea which followed.

The report ends by saying:

"Tho the membership was small during the War years, and funds quite limited, the Bloomfield Art League tried to do what it could to help."

BLOOMFIELD BANK AND TRUST COMPANY.

We quote the first paragraph of this report -
(see Book No. 8)

"The contributions made by banks to the one important objective, Victory, may not have been so dramatic nor appealing to the imagination as the building of planes, ships, tanks and guns. Nevertheless, the part which the banks played in the war effort was an essential link in the chain which was forged to bring the war to a successful conclusion and, it is to be hoped, to a prolonged peace."

We find in this report very valuable financial statistics relating to efforts to devote a large part of the bank's income to assist business and private citizens in war work. Part of this book is devoted to a collection of copies of letters telling of war drives and the part played by the bank in making these drives the huge success they were.

A letter from the New Jersey Bankers' Association reports to the bank the fact that every war loan had been far oversubscribed in Bloomfield.

A collection of small posters and throwaways are reminders of the part played by the bright prints which caught our eye as we walked thru the bank.

We feel that few people stop to realize the handicap under which this institution worked until they see the list of employees who left to do their part in the war effort. This book contains the names of twenty-two men and women who served in different branches of the service. Twenty-one of these came back, one did not.

The collection of letters, V-mail and cards turned over with this report is truly appreciated. Knowing what this correspondence meant to the people in the bank, it is fitting that it should be preserved in the archives of the War Records.

BUNDLES FOR AMERICA.

This report is book No. 9 and shows that truly every piece of clothing or material entering the work-room left it in the form of something useful. We have visited these beehives of activities from time to time and have always marvelled at the results achieved at the end of the day. There was nothing to throw away, for even the tiniest fragment had been clipped and saved to be made into pillows for use in the Veterans' hospitals. Money for materials and wool was made in ways known to resourceful women. The creation of useful articles from odds and ends was only a part of the fine work of these women for we read in their report of the distribution of clothing, afghans, quilts, knitted articles and many kinds of comfort kits. A piano, furniture and records were sent to Camp Kilmer. Books were collected and forwarded to camps and hospitals. We all know of the difficulties encountered by the wives of service men in their endeavors to clothe their families. Again, the Bundles stepped in and helped many wives and mothers thru difficult situations. Many letters of approval and appreciation from officers of the national organization add to the interest of this report. Truly these devoted women well proved their ability to live up to their motto -

"Make use of everything."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The report submitted by this influential group of business men and citizens shows a large amount of work described in four all too modest paragraphs.

The President of the Chamber was chairman of the local committee for the sale of War Bonds, and set up and directed the sales promotion activities connected therewith.

The headquarters of the War Bond Committee, later designated as the War Finance Committee, were in the office of the Chamber of Commerce.

When the Rationing Board was organized, no appropriation was made for rent and clerical services. The Chamber of Commerce stepped into the breach and freely offered the use of its office as well as the services of its office force to the Board. The offer was accepted and the work of the Board was done there for six months when headquarters at 600 Bloomfield Avenue was opened.

The Chamber and its members stood behind every local activity connected with the war effort.

CHURCHES

The work of the Churches was necessarily of a highly individualized character. But such reports as were sent in by Churches, show the thoughtfulness and personal interest of the home members of the congregations through keeping in touch with their fellow members in the Armed Forces.

There were remembrances on holidays and birthdays. On very special occasions names were printed in Church calendars, and families of men so honored were specially invited to attend services.

Separate organizations within the Churches also kept in touch with their members.

Some Churches had publications, in addition to the weekly bulletins, containing stories copied from letters from people in the Service. One Church reports 1000 of these letters in its files. These publications were circulated, not only on the home front, but also among members in the Service, so that buddies who were widely separated and in different theatres of war were kept in touch with one another.

The women worked in Red Cross and other local organizations, as volunteers in hospital work and as ambulance drivers. Of course, hundreds of these people served in Civilian Defense groups.

Most of the Churches also gave welcome home dinners to their returning members.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This organization, because of its standing among patriotic groups, turned all of its activities toward war efforts.

The members, though a comparatively small number, reported, at the end of the war, a total of 12,850 working hours. The National Society presented merit pins to all members reporting 500 hours or over.

This report tells of the local "Daughters" assisting in Motor Corps, as Staff assistants in Red Cross, and at Newark Airport. Three members were W.A.C.s. The Chapter collected, packed and sent many comfort bags to the Armed Forces.

The report of the work of one member will tend to show the way "Daughters" gave of their time and energies to those members of the Armed Forces who sorely needed more than Uncle Sam could give them. In the Watchung Mountains there were stationed, in almost complete isolation, three units of Anti-Aircraft groups. These soldiers were almost entirely young men of eighteen to twenty years old and were very lonely and homesick. They were cheered in their lonely vigil with thoughtful kindnesses such as good things to eat, magazines and other reading matter, the hospitality of private homes, and many warm knitted garments.

The Chapter also gave many hours of work to Red Cross and Community Chest drives.

BLOOMFIELD FEDERATION OF MUSIC

"To tell the story in retrospect of the activities of the Bloomfield Federation of Music during the war years is not an easy task. No particular records were kept beyond the bare facts of concerts given. It is a story of day-by-day living with anxiety and grief, and the efforts of the members of the Orchestra, Chorus, Glee and Mandolin Club to help people forget the horrors of war for a brief afternoon. If we were able to accomplish that, if only for two or three hours, then we were well repaid for the many hours of rehearsing which went to make up a successful concert. When we recall that an average of nine concerts a year were presented to audiences totalling approximately 8,000 to 10,000 people yearly, we must have succeeded in contributing in some small way to relief from strain for a great many people."

This paragraph opens the fine report of the war activities of the Bloomfield Federation of Music.

Twenty-one Chorus and Glee Club and twelve Orchestra members were cheered by the continued interest of fellow members at home. In addition to letters, they were remembered at Christmas and on their birthdays.

What the writer of the report calls "our proudest accomplishment" was the "train letter" sent to every member overseas. These letters averaged thirty feet in length and consisted of letters, original drawings, pin-up pictures, humorous poetry composed by members, clippings and many things of interest to the particular man to whom it was sent. Attached to the report is a photograph of a soldier happily reading his thirty-foot "letter".

GIRL SCOUTS

When becoming a member of the Girl Scouts the applicants for membership promise the following -

"On my honor I will try to do my duty to
God and my country".

Early in World War II, members of all local troops offered their services in assisting town groups in war work such as - Red Cross, A.R.P., War Bond rallies, addressing envelopes, Junior Nurses' Aids, hospitality assistance in Mountainside Hospital, and Community Chest drives.

Hundreds of donations of food and personal comforts for the Armed Forces were collected and packed. These are but a few of the lines of work done by these young girls. They were always ready and willing to assist whole-heartedly anywhere their services were needed.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

The work of this group was so extensive as to necessitate the preparation of a complete book (No. 7). The material was collected under a chairman appointed by the Sisterhood of the Temple. Many months were spent in the collecting and arranging of this book and the result will be of great value to all those interested in the Town War Records.

From the introductory statement of the Chairman, the following is quoted:

"The response of the Brotherhood of the congregation, whether in uniform or at the home front, was splendid. At the home front they participated in all Bond Drives, Scrap, Salvage Programs, Civilian Defense Duties - every job was well done."

One hundred and forty men and two women from this group served in the Armed Forces.

KIWANIS CLUB

The opening paragraph of the report of the Kiwanis Club is as follows:

"In the National Emergency that had its inception December seventh nineteen hundred and fourth one, the Kiwanis Club of Bloomfield endeavored to cooperate in every possible way that we, as Americans, could retain the American way of living."

Following this statement of their objective, we find them, for the duration of the war, busily engaged in Civilian Defense, Red Cross, the sale of War Stamps and War Bonds, and the collection of books, records, and "comfort bags" for Service Men, to be distributed at embarkation points.

Members of the Club who were in service were frequently remembered with letters and gifts. Members also assisted in the work of the Draft Board, Rationing Board, and Civilian Defense.

As the War continued we read of the added activities of this group which included cooperation with Bundles for America and Red Cross blood donors campaign. Thirteen members of the club served in the Armed Forces, a large number for a small group.

As a fitting close to their War efforts, Bloomfield Kiwanis presented to the local Red Cross a station wagon to help our veterans at local hospitals.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bloomfield Library is to be the repository of the War Service Roster and the History of the work of the people of Bloomfield as contained in their records of World War II.

The Library now has in its care the history of the Bloomfield Defense Council from December 20, 1940, until the close of the war. Two books, carrying the first unit of War Records, were turned over to the Library on May 7, 1946.

A complete file of the minutes of the local Defense Council is being prepared by its secretary and will be added to the war records at an early date.

The activities of the Library group were so many and so varied that we quote from the opening and closing of the report and refer those interested to the complete record:

"There has never been a war in which books have played so important a part as in World War II. Millions were shipped to our Armed Forces all over the world at the request of Army and Navy leaders who knew that reading was necessary for instruction and was a most powerful morale builder."

"As a Library our motto was 'Service through books', and in the postwar era, we believe this service will prove to be of even greater value."

MOMS' CLUB

On March 2, 1942, eight Mothers of boys in service met in the Community House and formed the Moms' Club. Other Mothers joined this little group and its membership grew until it exceeded four hundred.

During the first four years, testaments, sandwiches, cigarettes and candy were distributed to each inductee leaving Boards six and seven.

Who could possibly know more about ways to make boys happy than their own Mothers? So these Mothers sent overseas comforts and goodies which were acknowledged in grateful letters.

Moms were also active on the home front in bond drives, Civilian Defense, and clothing and food drives.

Because of these activities funds were necessary and were raised in many ways.

The report ends as follows:

"The Moms have always been willing to cooperate with other organizations and although the war is over we realize there is still much to be done, and will continue to do all we can to aid service men and women as MOTHERS NEVER FORGET THE SACRIFICES AND HARDSHIPS THEIR CHILDREN HAD TO BEAR".

THE NURSES REGISTRY

A separate book of clippings (No. 6) was necessary to tell of the work of these women.

In no form of war activities do we find a more diversified group of people cooperating than in this undertaking of the Nurses Registry.

From 1941 to 1946 they collected and sent to men in service, thousands of packs of cigarettes. Local organizations, publications, stores and citizens cooperated. Parties and entertainments were arranged for the benefit of the "smoke fund".

From time to time very unusual letters were received at the Registry and many were printed in the Independent Press. The nurses also have a collection of hundreds of communications from grateful boys all over the world.

This scrap book was compiled by an interested helper after he returned from the Pacific.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY HOUSE.

"Fortunate indeed was the community which during the war years had in operation recreation programs which might serve to keep the populace on an even keel. Such programs served as antidotes to the impact of times and conditions which were by no means usual. Too, such programs served to provide a humanizing influence during a world-wide drive for scientific supremacy, a drive in which materialism and technology are necessary factors. But those same factors serve to upset the individual, the home, the neighborhood, the community and the state."

Writing of the work of this department, its director begins his report with the above paragraph.

Fortunate, indeed, was Bloomfield to have had this well-organized department of Recreation ready to function and carry on thru the years of the war. And carry on it did with the following departments. Offered for those who worked during the day were soft ball, basket ball and base ball leagues, archery, table tennis, chess, art, and the like. These activities were enjoyed by thousands. Music was kept alive (see separate full report) thru Bloomfield Federation of Music.

Of twelve committees, the work of which comprised community war services, the work of six was definitely tied up with the recreation department.

Also fortunate was our town in having a Community House which served as headquarters for various groups which were involved in war effort.

This resume of the work of this far-reaching and highly diversified organization of the town touches but a few of the outstanding activities of the group. For a full appreciation of its work as a morale builder, we refer you to the Report in the library files.

RED CROSS

Book No. 5 is a complete history of the War Work of the Bloomfield Chapter, American Red Cross. Of all war organizations, this is by far the best known nationally and locally. The magnitude of the work will be apparent from the different activities listed below. The report is replete with details and statistics.

Home Service

Disaster preparedness.

Special War Time Service

Blood Donor Service ---- Camp and Hospital Service.

Volunteer Special Service

Dietitians' Aide Corps ---- Home Service Corps ----
Canteen Corps ---- Nurses' Aide Corps ---- Arts and
Skills ---- Production Corps ---- Knitting ----
Motor Corps.

Nursing Activities Service

Public Health Nursing ---- Nurse Recruitment ----
Home Nursing ---- Junior Red Cross ---- Nutrition.

Safety Service

First Aid ---- Accident Prevention ---- Water Safety ----
Public Information.

BLOOMFIELD SAVINGS INSTITUTION.

In Book No. 3 will be found the posters, window cards, and folders collected by this Institution for all of the bond drives. Here are also found many large photographs of people well known locally and nationally, and the part they took in making Bloomfield's sale of War Bonds the huge success it was.

During the war, there was displayed, in glass cases on the walls of the Institution, a collection of approximately 2500 photographs of Bloomfield men and women in the service. After the war, this collection was donated to the War Records. It was believed that the best way of preserving this material would be to integrate it with the Roster of people in the service kept in the office of the Mayor. Accordingly, each photograph was mounted on the card containing the information about the person shown in the picture. This Roster is, and will be for some time, in constant use for purposes of reference, but, eventually, will find its way to the Library.

One of the officers of the Institution made a very unique collection of data relating to the activities of the Bloomfield schools in war time. The material is contained in a book that may be inspected at the office of the Institution.

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BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLS

The record of the myriad activities of the Schools, from week to week, will be found in Scrap-books Nos. 1 and 2. See also report of Red Cross (Book No. 5). The interesting book assembled by the Savings Institution and to be found there, may also be consulted.

MILES A. SUAREZ POST 711
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF U.S.
and
LADIES AUXILIARY.

The deep interest of this group in all war activities is well illustrated by the statement "between forty and fifty sons and daughters of the members served in the Armed Services".

Among the reported activities of the Post were work in connection with scrap drives and as Air Wardens; many members donated to the various blood banks.

The Ladies Auxiliary cooperated with Minute Women in selling War Bonds and stamps, and worked in the Red Cross rooms sewing and making surgical dressings. Several members were nurses in local hospitals.

The Post and Auxiliary cooperated with State and County departments of V.F.W. in entertaining men in hospitals and camps, and they took an active part in the dedication of town Honor Rolls.

The Post and Auxiliary received citations for their liberal donations toward the purchase of training planes for the Air Corps. These planes were purchased by their National Organization and presented to the Government.

Records of accomplishments of this busy organization and its Auxiliary will also be found among the clippings in scrap-books Nos. 1 and 2.

WAR SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

This committee relates in comparatively few words a story of faithful accomplishments in many lines of endeavor.

It tells of cash contributions for many purposes, and of thoughtful personal comforts sent to men in camps and hospitals. Not the least of their war efforts was the sale of bonds to the amount of \$15,426.15.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF BROOKDALE

This group of women report:

24,000 hours of work and 16,789 articles made from Oct. 1940, to March 1945.

Boxes were filled for Camp Kilmer, members served on Ration Boards, Community Chest, and in Red Cross drives. Many also served as Staff Assistants at Newark Airport and as volunteers at the Bloomfield Day Nursery.

They report their sale of bonds and stamps at \$9797.06.

N. J. Bloomfield-Libraries

Free Public Library of Bloomfield, New Jersey
90 Broad Street, Bloomfield

Janet F. Melvain
Librarian

Phone BL 2-3383

The Library
in
World War II

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May 27, 1947

Phone BL 2-3383

THE LIBRARY IN WORLD WAR II

There has never been a war in which books have played so important a part as in World War II. As far back as May 10, 1933 Hitler showed his fear of the effect of books on his plans for world-wide conquest by having a public bonfire of them in Berlin. The Japanese too, realized their importance for a shipment of \$50,000 worth of technical books, purchased in this country, was found and confiscated just after war was declared. Millions were shipped to our armed forces all over the world at the request of the Army and Navy leaders who knew that reading was necessary for instruction and was a most powerful morale builder.

These facts emphasized in a most dramatic way what libraries everywhere felt - that the public libraries of America had a specific part to play in the general war effort with a responsibility and a duty all their own. So, although the war work of the Bloomfield Library was not spectacular, we believe it played a valuable part in our own local war plans.

Even before the United States entered the war, in November 1940, we distributed lists of "Essential Books for Workers in The National Defense Program" to local industries - in two cases at the request of the company, supplying enough copies for general distribution to the employees. In 1941 and 1942 the money given us by the Friends of the Library Association was spent for new technical books so much in demand by the workers in the factories.

Special lists of books were prepared and distributed to different groups and to the library patrons generally. These lists were on

"democracy", "Civilian Defense", "South America; Neighbor or Relation?", "American Spirit in Books", "Americans All" and similar subjects.

Exhibits in the library were equally varied, including, "Books That Have Changed the Modern World", "Defense Work of the Essex County Vocational Schools", "Books Banned in Nazi Germany" and exhibits showing flags, photographs, etc. of countries in the group of United Nations. Special exhibits were prepared for the Community War Chest Drives, and at all times space was devoted to government posters advertising War Bonds, Army and Navy Recruiting, Victory Gardens, etc. and many government pamphlets were distributed.

Early in 1942 the Trustees of the library offered the use of the auditorium, free of charge, to the Civilian Defense Council and to the Red Cross for any of their classes or meetings. Consequently, several First Aid courses, staff assistance courses, and meetings of Canteen workers were held in the library. The Air Raid Precautions Staff also used the auditorium regularly for many months.

Although library hours had to be curtailed to save fuel, an attempt was made to give the greatest service to our borrowers by remaining open on Saturday and closing for a whole day in the middle of the week. The summer that gas rationing put a halt on pleasure driving, the staff volunteered to work Sunday afternoons so that the library could be open from 2:30 to 6:00 during July and August. We also opened a summer branch in Brookdale - with the cooperation of the North End Improvement Association which lent us the use of its club house. This branch was open two half-days a week and was especially enjoyed by the children of that section.

The Children's Librarian spoke on "Books About America" at several of the schools in connection with the Schools at War Program.

She also gave a talk on story-telling to those taking the course for Volunteer Child-Care Aides, and the library provided a special shelf of books for the use of this group.

Realizing that many residents of Bloomfield, Glen Ridge and Montclair could not visit their own libraries because of the gasoline shortage, the libraries of these three municipalities entered into an agreement for inter-changeable service. In this way, an adult could borrow books from whichever of the three libraries was most convenient for him to visit in the course of his daily travels. This service has proved so helpful in war-time we hope to continue it.

All members of the staff joined the pay-deduction plan for the purchase of war bonds thus entitling the library to a Minute-Man banner and a certificate. They represented the library on the Mayor's Post-War Advisory Committee, the Committee on Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the Committee on Rehabilitation (later the Civilian and Veterans Service Committee) and on the Adult Education Committee.

In connection with the rehabilitation work, the library set up a special section of books on vocational guidance, and with the help of a gift from the Civilian and Veterans Committee were able to add extensively to the regular collection of books in this field. These books have proved of great value to returning servicemen.

However, the major war activity of the library was its participation in the National Victory Book Campaign sponsored by the American Library Association, American Red Cross and the United Service Organizations. On January 22, 1942 the librarian, who was chairman for the local drive, called a meeting in the library auditorium to which thirty local organizations sent representatives. The purpose of the drive was explained

and plans for carrying it out discussed. All organizations offered their heartiest cooperation and many of them, besides collecting books from their own members, furnished very valuable assistance in the actual work involved.

The Bloomfield Branch of the American Association of University Women undertook the responsibility of sorting the books collected. Various groups and individuals secured deposit stations throughout the town, provided cartons for the books and made the necessary signs and posters. The Kiwanis Club took charge of collecting the books from these stations and bringing them to the library. The Girl Scouts made a house-to-house canvas for books, and the Boy Scouts assisted in the collections. Every public and parochial school served as a collection center and arrangements were made to have books left at the fire houses and some of the churches. The Royal Theater showed a trailer at every performance for a week, distributed book marks and made a place in the lobby for books. Many of the local stores, besides displaying posters about the drive, added a line to their advertisements in the local paper urging people to contribute. The library also carried a large advertisement in the Independent Press for the same purpose.

Although the National Campaign closed in 1943, the library continued to accept books for distribution to our service men and women until the end of the war. Altogether nine or ten thousand books were collected, more than six thousand of which were sent to various camps, hospitals, etc. as designated by the central committee. Discarded books and magazines were sold and \$18.00 in cash sent to the National Book Campaign Committee toward expenses.

One of the staff not only worked with the Independent Press on local publicity, but served as State chairman of publicity.

It is not necessary to list the individual war work done personally by the members of the staff, although all made their contribution, attending first aid classes, doing Canteen work, acting as blood donors and knitting. As a library our war motto was "Service Through Books" and in the post war era, we believe this service will prove to be of even greater value.

Jfm:vp

Janet F. Melvain
Librarian

BLOOMFIELD FILE
BLOOMFIELD FILMS LIBRARY
DO NOT CIRCULATE

WALTER H. MILLER, D.O., M.D.

229 LIBERTY STREET
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Kiwanis Club of Bloomfield

In the National Emergency that had its inception December seventh, nineteen hundred and forty-one, the Kiwanis Club of Bloomfield endeavored to cooperate in every way possible that we, as Americans, could retain the American way of living.

Nineteen hundred and forty-one saw the Kiwanis Club become actively engaged in Civil Defense, Red Cross and other war efforts.

Nineteen hundred and forty-two saw a continuation of Kiwanis participation in the war effort. War Stamps and Bond sales were stimulated at every meeting. Books were donated to aid the Victory Bond Campaign. Kiwanis cooperated in the rubber drive and also in the call for phonograph records. Purses containing necessary toilet articles were sent to embarkation points for distribution. Christmas gifts were sent to Kiwanis Military members. Members of Kiwanis were active in the Draft Boards, Rationing Board and Civilian Defense.

Nineteen hundred and forty-three saw Kiwanis intensify its war efforts in order to hasten our final victory. All war agencies were greatly aided by Kiwanis.

Nineteen hundred and forty-four was still an active year in stimulating appeals to all Americans to aid their country. Clothes were collected in the "Bundles for America" drive. Wounded war veterans were furnished entertainment by our Kiwanis Club. The Red Cross Blood Donor Campaign was actively supported by Kiwanis. Contributions to the Red Cross and other agencies were continued by Kiwanis.

Nineteen hundred and forty-five saw our victory, a costly one, finally realized thru the efforts of every man and woman in these United States. Everything the Kiwanis did for the war effort was small in comparison to the sacrifice of lives and the destruction heaped upon the peoples of the world by the enemies of free people. One of the last efforts of Kiwanis in contributing to the war effort was the

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WALTER H. MILLER, D.O., M.D.

229 LIBERTY STREET
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

presentation to the local Red Cross of a station wagon
to be used in their work to help our veterans at local
hospitals.

Bloomfield Kiwanis pays homage to its thirteen
military members who so willingly served that we at
home could live without fear of losing our American
way of life:

Dr. Arthur C. Boughton (U. S. N. I.)
E. Osborne Cadmus (U. S. A.)
Hedley D. Cadmus (U. S. A.)
Derry D. Clark (U. S. A.)
Lawson Fullerton (U. S. A.)
Dr. Theodore B. Heiniken (U. S. A.)
Dr. William C. Moore (U. S. A.)
Hugh W. Murphy (U. S. A.)
Francis W. Murray (U. S. A.)
Dr. Arthur C. H. Power (U. S. N. I.)
Harry W. Rice (U. S. N. I.)
Dr. W. I. Van Cieson (U. S. N. I.)
Robert L. White (U. S. A.)

BECKEN FILE Y
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Feb 20. 1947

Dear Mrs. Beeken:-

Enclosed is a report of the work done by the Brookdale Woman's Club, during the war effort, as you requested. I hope it is what you want. If it isn't, please notify me, and I'll try and get any other information that you might need.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. Hummel
30 Ferncliff Rd.
Ref.

BLOOMFIELD FIVE
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Bonds and Stamps sold by members
Between March 16, 1942
and
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From booths in Bloomfield Centre, manned by 33 members of the
Club, the sales were-

From June 1 to Sept 15

at Woolworth's \$6957.86

From Nov. 17 to Mar 2 nd

at various booths 2531.80 9489.66
~~2531.80~~

Stamps sold at Club meetings 307.40

Total sale of stamps and bonds \$9797.06

Red Cross work was done by the different woman, in the
various branches of the work. As Staff Assistants in the office,
canteens one of the members being one of the canteen groups
to go to Newark Airport twice a week. One member helped at the
Day Nursery as a volunteer one day a week.

We also filled several boxes for the sick at Camp Kilmer.
Quite a few of the women helped at various times on the
Ration Board.

We also helped in the Red Cross and Community Chest drives.

RED CROSS UNIT					
ARTICLE	TOTAL NUMBER	HOURS			TOTAL HOURS
Army Sweaters	50	15	hrs.	ea.	750
Army Mufflers	63	30	"	"	1890
Navy Sweaters	47	15	"	"	705
Navy Tubular Scarfs	2	30	"	"	60
Women's Refugee Sweaters	17	30	"	"	510
Men's " "	10	35	"	"	350
Baby Blankets (Quilted)	177				
" "	460				
Rompers	23	4	"	"	92
Towles	2707				
Shrowd Sheets	198	2	"	"	396
Shrowds	171	2	"	"	342
Diapers (547 dozen)	6564				
Aprons (Small)	50	3	"	"	150
Baby Bathrobes	29	3	"	"	87
Baby Nighties	33				
Baby Booties (3 Pr.)	6				
Children's Sweaters	117	15	"	"	1755
Socks (14 pr.)	28	10	"	"	280
2 pc. Knitted Suits	6	40	"	"	240
Baby Dresses	308				
Bed Pads	591				
Bed Jackets	24	2	"	"	48
Nurses Aprons	166	5	"	"	830
Dr. Operating Gowns	151				
Laundry Bags	200				
Breast Binders	97				
Night Shirts	40				
Women's Night Gowns	15				
Kitchen Uniforms	14	5	"	"	70
Masks	2519				
Porter's Shirts	24	5	"	"	120
Wheel Chair Covers	39				
Bed Pan Covers	51				
Men's Pajamas (5 pr.)	10	5	"	"	50
Boy's " (3 pr.)	6	3	"	"	18
Shirts	48	3	"	"	144
Children's Coats	2	5	"	"	10
Men's Bathrobes	65	5	"	"	325
Ether Boots (45 pr.)	90				
Glove Cases	45				
Baby Sacques	20				
T. Binders	42				
Wrist Restraints	28				
Blanket Squares	284				
Triangles	1162				

Total no. Articles- 16,789

9,422

Including work done at home, also the articles which we did for which I have no record of hours to credit, I estimate the total number of hours to be at least 24,000 hours.

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" " " hours ----- 24,000

from October 1940 to March 1945, for both Mountainside Hospital, Montclair and American Red Cross Headquarters, Bloomfield, N.J.

BLOOMFIELD FILE
BLOOMFIELD FILE NO. 100
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Bloomfield Art League



THE BLOOMFIELD ART LEAGUE

War Activities

Through the difficult years of World War II, the Bloomfield Art League continued to function in spite of difficulties; there were shortages of teachers and materials. But the trustees of the League felt its doors must be kept open for the adults who were artistically inclined, and who wanted to paint and sketch as a relaxation from war work, and as a relief from tension for many who had loved ones in service.

Many members of the League had been called into service. Cardwell Higgins, former president, and instructor of "Life Drawing" was called, and while in service did constructive work in the field of camouflage. Stephen Plezanski, while president of the League was



(2)

THE BLOOMFIELD ART LEAGUE

called, and he too was employed in the navy to do art work. And George Swanson, another outstanding artist and former League teacher was called into service.

The Art League tried to keep in touch with their members who were serving in the war, and sent to them art supplies in the way of paints, water color paper, sketch pads, and pencils. Also, Chester Lawrence, who was then membership chairman, learned through the Nurses Registry the names of others from Bloomfield who wanted art supplies, and whether they were members of the League or not, supplies were sent to them.

Miss Anna Thomas, exhibitions chairman during the war years, arranged with a committee an



THE BLOOMFIELD ART LEAGUE

exhibition of work by service men. The paintings were hung in the gallery of the library; a Tea and reception was held for the families of the boys exhibiting work.

The League also contributed gifts and magazines to Veteran Hospitals, and made contributions to the Red Cross.

One evening the League rooms were open to service men and women who were home on furlough; Lute Peace, Cartoonist from the Newark news was present and made sketches of these men and women, and gave the sketches to them.

Though the membership was small during the War years, and funds quite limited, the Bloomfield Art League tried to do what it could to help.

(Printed by the Bloomfield Art League)

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from October 1940 to March 1945, for both Mountainside Hospital, Montclair and American Red Cross Headquarters, Bloomfield, N.J.



"This is a war which demands the utmost of all of us. By the efforts of Bundles for America, the personnel of the Navy is assisted in carrying on its share of the task of winning the final victory."

What finer laurels could any American ask for than the supreme satisfaction of knowing that his or her contribution is hastening the day of Peace . . . with Victory!



All dressed up and plenty of places to go.



A PLEDGE FOR AMERICANS

I am a citizen of the oldest republic in existence. I am proud of it.

I take pride in being a free citizen in a free society, but I know that the priceless blessing of liberty is not a heritage, but is won afresh or lost by each generation.

I therefore pledge myself to all those Americans who have gone before me and to all those who will come after me to do my part and to pass on this Freedom.

I will listen to no idle rumors. I will repeat no destructive gossip.

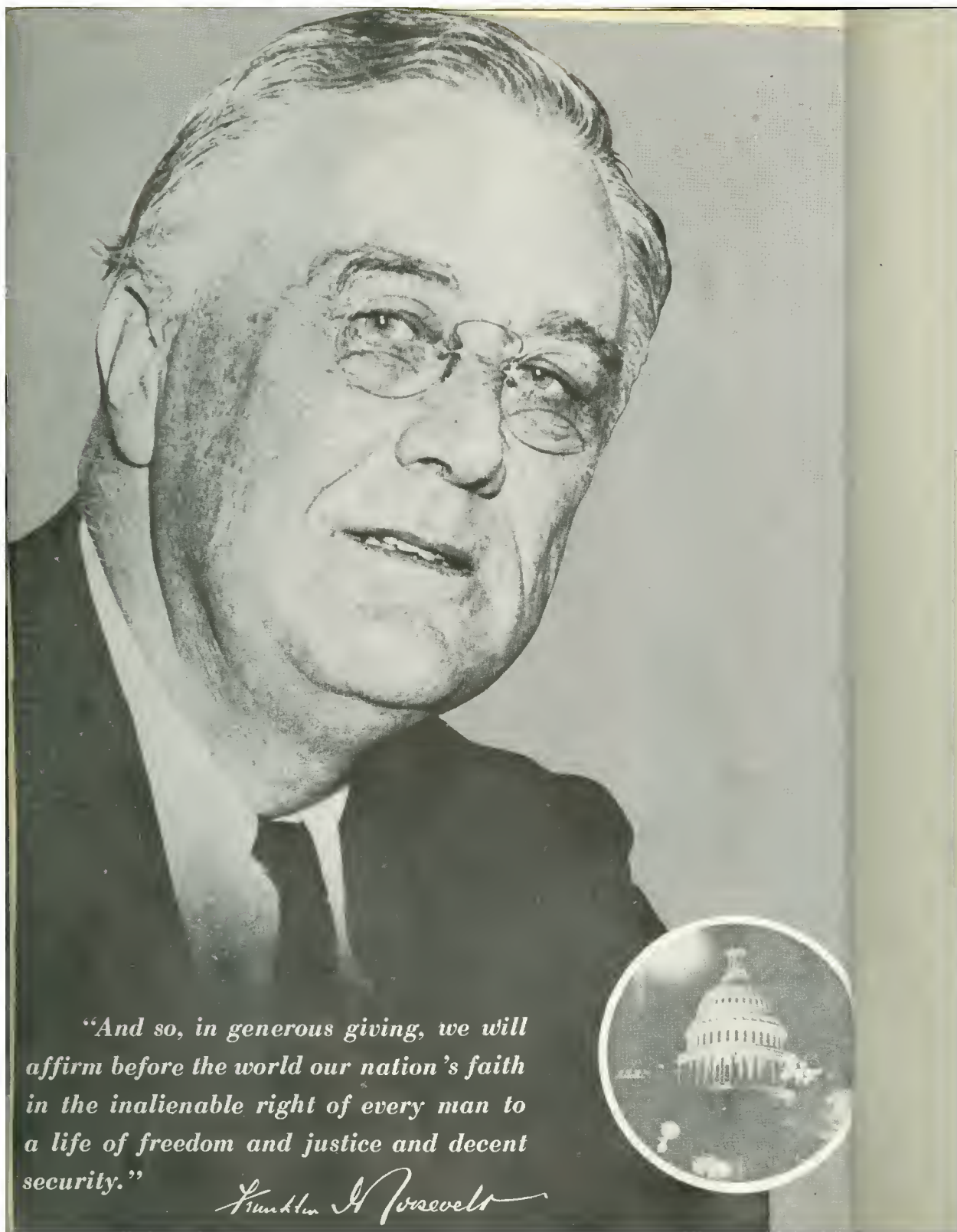
I will support loyally and in friendship all the United Nations who are joined with us in this righteous compact to defeat the Axis powers.

I know my country must win this war, and I will conduct myself as if I alone bore the responsibility for the victory of Democracy. In the words of a soldier of other days, "I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone".

I dedicate myself to this cause. I swear that to win it, I will make any sacrifice, however great, and perform any task, however humble.

So help me, God!

Sponsored by
Bundles for America, Inc.



"And so, in generous giving, we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom and justice and decent security."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



BLOOMFIELD UNIT
BUNDLES FOR AMERICA

ORGANIZED BY

MRS. B. H. ENGELKE

FEBRUARY - 1942

"Our country's welfare is our first concern, and who
promotes that best, best proves his duty."



Dedicated to my son David Leonard
Pallian who served his adopted
country (USA) as a Chief Warrant
Officer, U. S. Army Ordinance Dept.

1942 to 1946

Chicago Ordinance District

And to my son
Bertram Harlow Engelke, Jr.
who served his native country (USA)
as a seaman 2/C in the U. S. Navy





Tinaider Engeline
(Mrs B. H.)

It is gratifying to know that my efforts and accomplishments have been considered worthwhile and I had the privilege to be asked by the historian of Bloomfield, Mrs. A. V. Beeken to present the following information.

My past experience made me realize just what a helping hand really means to a helpless person however small the help may be.

I was glad to participate in the work and to carry it on. I was happy that the organization came through to triumph over every obstacle. My profound appreciation and personal gratitude goes to Mrs. Henry Kessler who was a great inspiration in my work, and each and everyone who worked for the worthy cause.

We all did our share to our country, and I will treasure in my memory the work which I did as the most valuable part of my life.

Sinaida Engelke (Mrs B.H.)

Sinaida Engelke

Founder and President of
the Bloomfield Unit of
Bundles for America

In February, 1942, there was an appeal in the Sunday Call for volunteer workers for the Bundles for America in Newark. On the following day I went to Newark offering my help. At the headquarters of the Bundles for America I met the President of the Chapter, Mrs. Henry Kessler (wife of the famous Dr. H. Kessler who served overseas performing miracles in surgery).

Mrs. Kessler explained to me the purpose of the organization, showed the work which had been accomplished by the members of the Chapter. She also supplied me with literature, posters, mittens to be sewed, offered wool on credit and advised me to organize a chapter in Bloomfield. She also said: "You have to have the work near to your heart if you want to succeed."

Mrs. Kessler invited me to the meeting of the Newark Chapter at her home on February 9th, where I became a member of the organization and proposed my friend Mrs. Evelyn Gordon of Bloomfield.

I was very much impressed with the spirit of the women and their sincerity. They made me understand and realize the importance of the work for such a worthwhile cause and I felt that as long as there was such a group of women, we always could look with confidence ahead to victory.

Mrs. Gordon and myself decided to find a place at Bloomfield Center to appeal for volunteer workers and to organize a sub-committee to the Newark Chapter of Bundles for America.

Mrs. A. Sanford and her daughter Mrs. Gladys Keyler, owner of the house at 556 Bloomfield Avenue (next to the Center Theatre), graciously contributed the use of a store, heat, telephone and sewing machine. They took a great interest in the success and helped with the sewing. They certainly deserve a sincere vote of appreciation and gratitude.

Formation of a Bloomfield sub-committee of the Newark Chapter of Bundles for America was announced by Mrs. J. H. Burges, secretary of the new unit, with Mrs. B. H. Engelke chairman for the Bloomfield organization.

Other committee members are as follows: Mrs. P. B. Gordon, vice president; Mrs. J. E. Barkelew, treasurer; Mrs. S. O. Noel, Mr. Louis Gans, Mr. David L. Pallian (son of Mrs. Engelke), controller.

Having the place, we needed tables and chairs. They were provided by Mrs. Louis Kramer of Montclair and the Sisterhood of the Temple Bnai Zion, 430 Franklin Street, Bloomfield.

We started to appeal for workers, scraps of materials, old cloth in good condition. The boy scouts lead by Mr. Pallian distributed circulars in which the purpose of the organization was explained.

I also went personally to different organizations and churches asking the ministers to announce the need from the pulpits and in the bulletins. After I proved to the local newspaper that the new organization was suggested by the President's Committee on War Relief in Washington, and had four hundred branches already, with headquarters in New York headed by Mrs. Wales Latham, the newspaper gave us publicity.

The response was very nice. We received a lot of new scraps from Mr. Hyman Schondorf and Mr. George Green in Bloomfield, also clothes. Our motto was to make use of everything. We started to give out wool for knitting mittens, sweaters, hel-

mets, socks, gloves and scarves. The distribution of knitted garments and comfort kits were made through Army and Navy supply channels. Busy women started to do sewing, darning, mending and cutting for the needy families of our boys. Everything was sent to the Distribution Center of the Bundles for America in New York. Mrs. Jean S. Romaine (1), Chairman of the Model Workshop in New York - Salvage work room where waste materials and unused clothing were converted into practical garments for war emergency needs, a major work of Bundles for America. She helped us with her ideas and suggestions to become one of the 500 Salvage Work Rooms of branches in 46 states. Mrs. Romaine also kept supplying us with scraps of new materials which the clever-fingered women used, being advised by Mrs. John Morrison Curtis, guest speaker at one of the meetings of the Bloomfield unit of the Bundles for America, who was the founder of the Refugee Relief Workroom in Summit, N. J.

All clothing which was collected and assorted, has been divided between the League for Friendly Service in Bloomfield, which kept it for emergency in case of disaster, and part has been sent to the warehouse of the Bundles for America in New York.

During the Victory Salvage Fashion Fair of the Bundles for America at the Hotel Astor under the leadership of the National President, Mrs. Wales Latham and sponsored by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, Admiral Ernest KING, Rear Admiral Adolphus ANDREWS and many other distinguished sponsors. A quilt which has been made by the members of the Auxiliary of the Park Methodist Church in Bloomfield has been on display, won the recognition as a most beautiful creation, also a few salvage skirts made at the workshop of the Bloomfield unit of Bundles for America.

Later on afghans and quilts had been contributed by Mrs. A. Sanford and the Baptist Church, organizations and citizens. Some of those with the permission of the President of the Bundles for America in New York have been raffled off to be able to pay with the money for the wool, which has been supplied by quota through the headquarters of the Bundles for America in New York. Other resources have been obtained by membership dues (\$1 per year), cake sale, bridge parties, strawberry festival. Most of the money has been spent for buying wool to be able to supply our boys in the Armed Forces with sweaters, mittens, mufflers, gloves, helmets, socks, scarves and comfort kits. Those articles which the Bloomfield chapter sent have been praised and considered outstanding.

In addition to furnishing our fighting forces, we aid the men of our merchant marine, the wives and families of men of our forces and civilians who became casualties of war. We carry out this work effectively. The sewing has been done in a professional way and the Bloomfield unit won the recognition of one of the best. We kept on sending tremendous amounts of supplies to the Distribution Center of the Bundles for America in New York. The Bloomfield unit also contributed a large amount of quilts to the Service Men's Club in Newark where our boys have been supplied with free meals and lodging. Afghans have been sent to the hospitals. The Bloomfield unit answered the appeal of the President of the headquarters in New York by equipping a day room at Camp Kilmer near New Brunswick. A piano, records, desk, chairs, etc. have been sent.

Books collected at the Victory Book Drive have been sent to the headquarters for distribution. Also Christmas packages have been sent through the headquarters by the Bloomfield unit.

During the drive an appeal requested by the National Headquarters of the Bundles for America in New York that I spoke at the Mom's Club. This was during their meeting at the Community House in Bloomfield. I also spoke at the Episcopalian

arch, Bloomfield, at one of the churches in Nutley, and the Temple Bnai Zion in Bloomfield. The response was splendid.

The unit had on exhibit garments and knitted articles which have been done at churches, different homes and at the workshop. The place has been graciously offered by Singer Company at Broad Street, Bloomfield and also at the Women's Club of Bloomfield and the Upper Montclair Women's Club. I also advised at the board meeting the unit to organize another unit. I asked Mrs. Martha Sacharoff who graciously offered her home, time, hands, and knowledge. The unit has been organized and the production was immensely thankful to the efforts of the workers. Over 100 garments are made. Afghans, socks, helmets and sweaters by President Mrs. Martha Sacharoff assisted by Miss F. V. DeHart, Miss D. Hunt, Miss Mary Pollack, Mrs. C. Skinner, and Mrs. F. I. Zuhr.

Then came the day of celebrating one year of our work. It took place at the Women's Club. I expressed my deepest gratitude to the members of the organization for their unselfish efforts, for rendering a memorable service to their country in time of war, for giving me the privilege to work with them, for their contribution toward the fulfillment of programs. I was happy to hear from some of the members that they are proud of me, however I was proud of their spiritual concept behind the Bundles for America. New officers elected at the meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Ziverling are: Mrs. Bertram H. Engelke (re-elected president); Miss Mary C. Pollack, first vice president; Miss Fanny V. N. DeHart, second vice president; Mrs. Adolph Marden, secretary and Mrs. K. C. Kammerman, treasurer. A production committee was named including: Mrs. George Amos, Mrs. S. F. Segge, Mrs. Henry Ziverling, Mrs. F. J. Zuhr.

As the war was going on the quota was raised and our production accordingly. During this time we have been forced to move a few times because the stores have been rented and the unit could not remain free of rent charge any longer. We accepted a store in winter without heat at 283 Glenwood Avenue, courtesy of Mrs. S. Johnson, but we as soldiers stuck to it keeping in our minds that our boys have to go through even more worse experiences. Every time I used to go in, Mr. Johnson would say: "You are going in the refrigerator." However I survived and kept working with women who considered of great importance the physical warmth of our boys, making them comfortable. Thanks to the faithful cooperation of the devoted women who dedicated their energies to this vital work, the record of the production grew steadily more impressive.

By this time Bundles for America had 4 major Distribution Depots. From hundreds of branches and units all over the country, a constant flow of merchandise poured into these central depots. All articles of wearing apparel have been carefully examined, sorted, reconditioned and ready for immediate shipment.

Requisitions have been regularly received from Army Emergency Relief and Navy Relief. On recommendation of the agencies, the families of servicemen have been fitted and clothed. Honorably discharged servicemen have been outfitted. All knitted garments have been distributed on specific requisition from Commanding or Supply Officer. Kit bags have been delivered to military, naval and coast guard units on request from the authorities involved.

After serving 2 terms as chairman of the unit of the Bundles for America, I have been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors. Mrs. George Amos took the chairman. Mrs. George Amos arranged the celebration of the second birthday of the Bloomfield unit at the Park Methodist Church on March 31st in splendid patriotic array. Lunch has been served by the ladies of Auxiliary. One of the active workers Miss Cora J. Pierson decorated attractively the tables. The party was well attended

by workers and guests. Mrs. George Amos, chairman of the unit, was toastmistress. She had high praise for the members of the unit. A very special tribute has been paid to the oldest member of the unit, Mrs. Emma Noll. She also mentioned the splendid work done by members of the Essex Avenue Unit of the Bundles for America in Glen Ridge under capable supervision of Mrs. Martha Sacharoff. Among the guests were Mrs. John M. Ledbetter Jr. of National Headquarters in New York, who praised the very good work of the unit. Mrs. Edward Fenias, president of the Newark Chapter spoke of the work of "Bundles" in general. Civilians and servicemen have sought their help and have always been benefited. Mrs. A. McKeivy, wool chairman of the Newark unit mentioned how much the good work of the Bloomfield unit had facilitated matters for her and her staff of workers.

The president of the headquarters of the Bundles for America congratulated us for the tremendous work done so successfully by our unit paying me a tribute as an organizer of it. In my message for my associates, I gave a brief resume of the local unit from its inception and expressed my great happiness at the way it had weathered many storms during its two years existence, and came through to triumph over every obstacle.

I considered myself as the mother of this organization, which was dear to me as my children. I was watching it grow, devoting my time, giving my love, and enjoying seeing it successful. I paid my tribute and respect to the President, Mrs. George Amos, for leading the workers in a spirit to speed the peace. I finished with a prayer and hope that God will lead us soon to peace and return safely our boys and all the rest of them of the United Nations.

The guest speaker of the day was Mrs. John A. Reed (the wife of the Mayor of Bloomfield). Her talk mingled with bits of poetry inspired by the war and written by servicemen and civilians. She awakened in her listeners the realization that even after the war is finished, there is much to be done, and she asked: "Can we meet the challenge? Are we big enough?"

Miss Virginia Todd supplied the musical part of the program giving several piano selections. She also played the accompaniment for the "Star Spangled Banner" which opened the gala party.

Officers at this time of the Bloomfield Unit are as follows: Mrs. George Amos, chairman; Mrs. Martha Sacharoff, co-chairman; Mrs. Viola Altheiser, secretary; and Mrs. Helene Kermit Kammerman, re-elected treasurer. The directors: Mrs. B. H. Engelke, Mrs. Emma Noll, Mrs. F. S. Toadvine, Miss Cora Pierson, Miss Fannie De Hart, Miss Mary Pollack, Mrs. Edward Zuhr. Guests of Mrs. B. H. Engelke were Mrs. A. V. Beeken and Miss Mae Brown.

Mrs. George Amos was a great inspiration to the workers and handled the organization capably. Thanks to her human sympathy, unselfish efforts and understanding, the organization has grown and multiplied its services to the men of our Armed Forces and their families. Mrs. Viola Altheiser, secretary, rendered a memorable service to the country in time of war.

On October 3rd, 1945, the Board of Directors of the Bloomfield Unit for Bundles for America met at the Park Methodist Church in Bloomfield to celebrate peace. Lunch had been served by the members of the auxiliary of the church. Members of the organization and guests attended. Mrs. George Amos, spoke informally on the accomplishments of the Chapter during nearly four years of its existence and thanked the members for their wonderful support. Each member was singled out for special commendation, and the Essex Avenue Unit, which worked independently of the larger group, was asked to stand and "take a bow."

I mentioned that we met on a very happy occasion to celebrate peace and to make an inventory of what we contributed to speed the peace. We prayed to God to have again peace on earth, to save our boys, to watch over them wherever they have been, and to bring them back to us. We mourned those who gave their lives, so that the future generation could live in a world without war.

We thank God for accepting our prayers, for being gracious to us, for giving wisdom to our President to lead us to peace. It is very gratifying to know that we did our share. I was fortunate enough to have the privilege to be one of the group who worked for the worthy cause. I thanked every one for the inspiration, help and cooperation.

To the President, Mrs. George Amos, I paid my respect and tribute as to a very capable and splendid leader of the organization, under whose leadership it was a real pleasure to work, with my wish and hope that she will continue to work for the good and welfare of the community and be successful. Mrs. George Amos and the rest of the workers have not looked for glory or reward, but the nations owe them a debt of gratitude.

We who are privileged to work with them are proud of our kinship in this common cause. They have gladdened the hearts of countless thousands of our fighting men, helped to ease or erase the worries of women and children.

Special tribute was accorded Miss Elsa Schumacher, executive secretary of the Community Chest, who, as Mrs. Amos put it, "came to our aid when we were greatly in need."

It was agreed to turn over the balance of funds in possession of the local Chapter to Mrs. T. Peachy Spencer, head of the Red Cross Motor Corps, for a special project which will provide boxes for boys who will be confined at Camp Kilmer at Christmas.

Tribute was also paid Mrs. B. H. Engelke, first chairman of the Chapter, and thanks was expressed to the Independent Press for its support in the way of publicity.

Attending the luncheon were Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Viola Altheiser, Mrs. T. Peachy Spencer, Mrs. B. H. Engelke, Miss Elsa Schumacher, Mrs. Edward Penias, Mrs. Leo Sackaroff, Mrs. Helene Kammerman, Mrs. Emma Wolf, Mrs. Joseph J. McLaughlin, Miss Cora Pierson, Mrs. Henry S. Todd, Miss Emma L. Luther, Mrs. J. T. Daniels, Miss M. Brown, Mrs. William E. Howard, Mrs. Marion C. Coates and Mrs. Robert B. Smith, Mrs. Rita N. Zuhr, Miss Mary C. Pollock, Fanny V. N. DeHart, Elizabeth A. Hunt, Clara N. Sutton, Mrs. Katheryne Skinner, Mrs. Edna A. Hector, Mrs. Dora M. Graves and Mrs. Willard Galvion. Decorations were in the appropriate patriotic vein.

Statements From Letters Addressed to Mrs. B. H. Engelke (Organizer and President
of the Bloomfield Unit "Bundles for America")

April 16, 1942

My dear Mrs. Engelke:

It seems that we are forever being very grateful to you for all your splendid work. Now we want to tell you how much we appreciate all your knitting, and to thank you very deeply for your unswerving interest in us.

All this splendid cooperation is most heartening.

Yours very truly,

Jessie Kessler
(Mrs. Henry H) President of the Newark Chapter of Bundles for America

National Headquarters
New York, N. Y.
June 2, 1942

My dear Mrs. Engelke:

You are really doing a marvelous job, do keep up the good work as you are an inspiration to all!

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Wales Latham,
Mrs. Walen Latham, President
of Bundles for America, Inc.

June 23, 1942

My dear Mrs. Engelke:

A thousand thanks for the wonderful knitted garments returned to us, for the beautiful salvaged garments which have already found most appreciative homes, and for the smocks you included in your generous carton.

We do so appreciate your wonderful efforts, and your splendid work is a great inspiration to others.

Very sincerely yours,

Jessie Kessler
(Mrs. Henry H.) President of Newark Branch

National Headquarters
New York, N. Y.
October 23, 1942

Dear Mrs. Engelke:

I have read a copy of your speech with much interest and admiration. It is very beautiful and moving, and I feel sure everyone who heard it must have been inspired to greater service.

Congratulations to your fine and courageous work and that of your co-workers. It is spirit of your kind that will win the war. Many, many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Wales Latham
Mrs. Wales Latham, President
of Bundles for America, Inc.

National Headquarters,
New York, N. Y.
November 24, 1942

Dear Mrs. Engelke:

We are impressed with your alert comprehension of opportunity to serve our men and have our profound esteem and appreciation for work you have accomplished.

Very sincerely,

Frances Gent
Mrs. Ernest V. Gent, National
Director of Branches

December 12, 1945

Dear Chairman:

It is with mixed feelings of pride, regret and joy that I am sending you this letter - pride in a job well done and worthy of our best American traditions, regret that our association is over before I had the opportunity to meet you and thank you, personally, and, finally, joy that peace has at last come to us and that our men will soon be home with their families.

The services rendered by Bundles for America, Inc. during World War II, which have been attested by the Government, military officials and thousands of servicemen, were possible only because of the marvelous cooperation of all our loyal volunteers in all widespread branches.

I am sure that the following statements will be of interest to you and your loyal co-workers, especially the note from your auditor showing how much was used for relief and how little was spent for overhead.

It is with sincere good wishes and the hope that you may continue this work in your own locality helping the returning veterans to get established that I bid you good-bye and extend to you again the heartiest thanks from National Headquarters for all you have done to make Bundles the grand success it has been.

Yours very sincerely,

Aaidre S. Langhorne
Mrs. Cary D. Langhorne
National President

Gratitude To the "Patriotic Citizens" Who Graciously Contributed the Use of the Vacant Stores. Names as Following:

Mrs. A. Sanford and her daughter Mrs. Gladys Keyler 558 Bloomfield Avenue

Mr. S. Spitz 294 Glenwood Avenue

Mr. J. A. Johnson 283 Glenwood Avenue (Corby Coal Company)

Mr. B. Krulewitz 600 Bloomfield Avenue Kay's Department Store

China Lantern Bloomfield Avenue

Mrs. Mary Cohane 55 Washington Street

Jimmy Dedeola assisted in moving and delivering packages

Mrs. Henry S. Todd. Mrs. Robert B. Smith, representative Red Cross. Mrs. Willard Galvion have been in charge of transportation.

Mrs. Joseph J. McLaughlin representative the Bloomfield Independent Press has been a great help for the organization in her publicity job.

A special thanks to Mrs. Helene Kammerman, treasurer of the Bundles for America who kept the books in a professional way.

Mrs. A. Brown, 80 years old who continuously knitted for our boys, earned the heartiest thanks of appreciation, also her daughter Mae Brown. Mrs. Edna A. Hector, Mrs.

A. Kessel, Miss Emma L. Luther, Miss A. Osiech, Mrs. Katheryne Skinner, Mrs. Dora M. Graves.

Mrs. Marion C. Coates and Mrs. S. O. Noel for whom rain, snow, storm or zero weather could be no excuse of keeping the door of the chapter closed.

The Essex Avenue Unit which met at the home of Mrs. Leo Sacharoff of Glen Ridge rendered a memorable service to their country in time of war.

The Bloomfield Chapter of the Bundles for America enjoyed the work with them.

The women who worked there are: Miss Fanny V. N. De Hart, Miss Elizabeth A. Hunt, Miss Clara N. Sutton, Mrs. Katheryne Skinner, Mrs. Dora M. Graves, Miss Marry Polack, Mrs. Rita M. Zuhr.

Mrs. Frank Zuhr has secured the services of a group of girls to do snipping for pillows for convalescent hospitals, also two group of girls from Brookdale have started work on a patchwork quilt.

The Bloomfield Chapter of Bundles for America contributed to hospital at Wheequake Park, chairs, lamps, musical instruments, records, afghans, also visited the hospital for Camp Kilmer prizes for the boys played Bingo, Christmas gift boxes, also personal gifts to the veterans who returned to Bloomfield, kit bags have been sent to our boys. Miniature kit bags creation of Mrs. George Amos have been given by her to the workers of the Bundles for America at the luncheon.

The President's War Relief Control Board - "As an agency created to meet a war-time emergency we feel that Bundles for America, Inc. has done a useful and timely job of which all of the people associated with the work should be proud. I am sure that the thousands of volunteer workers who have been active in the program will long remember the satisfaction of their very direct participation in the war effort. They certainly have earned the gratitude of the large number of servicemen and their families who have benefited directly by their efforts. The men and women who, in your national headquarters and throughout the country, have provided the leadership which made it possible for the program to go forward certainly deserve a vote of thanks from all of us.

"...the standing of Bundles for America, Inc. with the President's War Relief Control Board is of the highest. We especially appreciate the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which has been characteristic of our relationship with Bundles for America, Inc."

National Information Bureau - "Thank you very much for the resolution of your Board of Directors.....and congratulations on your success in bringing about this business-like decision. It is not often that emergency philanthropic organizations act with your wisdom and dispatch on a matter of this character, so you may well be proud of this record."

Army Service Forces, Headquarters, Second Service Command - "I wish to take this opportunity to extend to you and to the members of your organization my sincere appreciation of the outstanding services which you have rendered to military personnel of this Command and their dependents. Since the organization of Bundles for America, Inc. in 1942 you have provided clothing and articles of relief for many thousands of needy relatives of military personnel in this area. You have contributed not only to the health and welfare of these dependents, but added immeasurably to the morale of the soldier concerned in relieving him of some of the financial responsibility and worry that might otherwise have distracted him from his military duties. Your organization has also been of outstanding service to many installations of this Command whose day rooms and recreation halls have been furnished through the generosity of your members.

"I have a deep appreciation of the unselfish service performed by the members of Bundles for America, Inc., during the past three years. Their activities throughout the war period have been of great assistance to this Command in the carrying out of its responsibilities."

Headquarters, Eastern Defense Command - "Bundles for America has made an inestimable contribution to the comfort, welfare and morale of fighting men and their families at a time when such help was urgently needed. Your work has brought many pleasant moments to men and women to whom pleasant moments have come far too seldom in these last few years.

"...may I thank all the volunteer workers of Bundles for America who have devoted long hours to sewing, knitting and salvaging garments,

to repairing and distributing furniture, and to equipping day rooms at Army camps. Their contribution has truly been a significant factor in our victory. I know I speak for all who have benefited from your organization's tireless efforts when I express my deep gratitude for its splendid achievement."

Army Service Forces, Personal Affairs Office - "Your organization has been of the greatest assistance to Army Emergency Relief and to this office in carrying out its mission of assisting soldiers and veterans and their dependents. The very substantial contribution which was thus rendered was of incalculable value to the morale of servicemen and their families.

"Aside from the articles distributed by your group, a very important factor has been the spirit of the workers. These good people have always had in mind the morale factor and the importance of rendering assistance without lengthy investigation or the appearance of bestowing charity. This attitude greatly increases the value of the help given the applicant."

Army Service Forces, Port of Embarkation - "The very real service which Bundles for America, Inc. has rendered for enlisted men and women has earned the deep gratitude of all who were fortunate enough to receive the assistance your various departments so graciously extended. In addition my own work was made richly rewarding through the additional help which this office was able to offer as a friendly contribution to public-spirited citizens who appreciated the value of such work and gave willingly of their time, effort and money to further it.

"I know that everyone who participated in your tremendous accomplishment feels the deep sense of spiritual comfort and satisfaction which attends an effort of this kind, and extend through you my sincere personal appreciation to the hundreds of unnamed workers who built the enviable record achieved by Bundles for America, Inc. during the war."

U. S. Coast Guard - ".....I would like to express again my admiration of the fine work performed by you, and to reiterate my appreciation of your many services performed on behalf of the men of this Base."

Seamen's Church Institute - "The Seamen's Church Institute has found Bundles for America to be of very valuable assistance in its program for merchant seamen, and we wish to express our very sincere appreciation for the many courtesies which have been extended to merchant seamen through your efforts. Were it not for various gifts of warm clothing and men's furnishings which have been supplied in the past to our Slop Chest, we would have found it most difficult to meet the pressing needs of seamen who, through no fault of their own, required warm gear."

American Red Cross - "I am sure that it must give you and your associates great gratification to realize the important contribution which your organization has made during the war emergency.

"With great appreciation for the services rendered by Bundles for America and congratulations to you."

HEADQUARTERS
SECOND SERVICE COMMAND
ARMY SERVICE FORCES

In recognition of meritorious service performed by

BUNDLES FOR AMERICA

this CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

is presented to commend the members and associates who
have voluntarily assisted in the accomplishment of many
missions assigned to this command in the prosecution of
World War II.

On SEPTEMBER 21, 1945

T. A. Durry
Major General, U. S. Army, Commanding

ATE STREET
DON MASS

ARTHUR J. MANNIX

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1776 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS
MANART-NEW YORK

November 7, 1945

To the Officers, Directors and Members
Bundles for America, Inc.
20 Warren Street
New York City

Gentlemen:

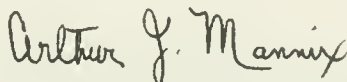
I have examined your accounts as kept at National Headquarters for the period beginning July 1, 1944 and ending October 31, 1945 and have reviewed the reports of independent auditors prior to July 1, 1944.

In connection therewith I have examined and reviewed the reports of production and distribution of articles produced by the various branches and regional headquarters.

From these records I find that your organization produced from Pearl Harbor day to date of suspension on September 30, 1945 a total of 2,322,195 articles and various kinds of services, which had a reasonable monetary value of \$6,207,777.40, all of which went to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or their dependents.

You will be gratified to know that the ratio of operating expenses to receipts for the period January 1, 1945 to October 31, 1945 at which date the books of your National Organization were closed was 3.94%, an extremely low operating cost.

Very truly yours,



Arthur J. Mannix
Certified Public Accountant

AJM

THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS BUNDLES FOR AMERICA?

A non-profit, war relief membership corporation, organized and supported by Americans as a service to the members of our Armed Forces, our merchant marine, and their families.

2. WHEN WAS IT INCORPORATED?

In November, 1941.

3. DOES IT OPERATE UNDER GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION?

Yes. Bundles for America is approved and registered with the President's War Relief Control Board.

4. IS BUNDLES FOR AMERICA A MEMBER AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FUND?

No. It is an independent home front service. It richly merits the support of every patriotic American, as well as Community and War Chests.

5. WHAT ARE ITS PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES?

There are three main divisions: a) Knitting and salvage sewing for our Armed Forces and their dependents; b) Supplying comfort service kits to our men; and c) Furnishing day rooms and recreation huts at Army camps and military outposts, providing canteens both stationary and mobile for inductees and enlisted men.

6. WHAT FURTHER SERVICES DOES IT PERFORM?

Has only one credit - to serve those who serve us. Services include mending and repairing garments of enlisted men, operating shoe repair, supplying utility bags, making slippers, chair pads, hospital jackets, arranging Christmas parties for servicemen, furnishing sun and recreation rooms at hospitals, acting as hostesses at canteens for merchant seamen, collecting books for libraries, jewelry for Baubles for Barter, salvage for wartime needs.

7. IS BUNDLES FOR AMERICA A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION?

Yes. There are 350 self-supporting branches and units in operation in 38 states.

8. HOW LARGE IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

There are more than 50,000 regular workers in the organization and thousands of volunteers.

9. WHAT HAVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR WORK AND WHAT HAD BUNDLES FOR AMERICA ACCOMPLISHED WITH THEIR SUPPORT?

Cash contributions, gifts, knitted garments, sewed garments, kit bags. Six canteens had been placed in service and 888 day rooms had been furnished. All finds are used for the production of materials, the operation of workrooms and distribution centers.

10. ARE COMPLETE AND DETAILED RECORDS KEPT?

Yes. Complete and detailed records are maintained and are open to the public.

11. WHAT COMPENSATION IF ANY, DO YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS RECEIVE?

They serve without pay. There are no personal expense accounts. The only compensation is the knowledge of a good job well done.

12. HOW ARE THE ACTIVITIES OF BUNDLES FOR AMERICA COORDINATED TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH THOSE OF OTHER WARRELATED AGENCIES?

Distribution of knitted garments is made on direct requisition by Army, Navy and Coast Guard officials. We work in close cooperation with the Seamen's Church Institute, The United Seamen's Service, The Marine Hospitals, and the designated Relief Societies of the Armed Forces and other relief organizations.

13. HOW IS YOUR WORK REGARDED BY SERVICEMEN, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?

The Armed Forces have honored us with citations and letters of commendation. Also letters of "Thank you" from our fighting men and from members of their families.

14. HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF BUNDLES OF AMERICA?

Membership is open to any American, young or old, who is willing and able to make a contribution of time, money or effort toward this vital work. There is a nominal registration fee of \$1.00.

15. DO YOU SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND?

Yes. New or worn clothing in useable condition. Home furnishings suitable for use in army day rooms and recreation huts.

16. ARE GIFTS TO BUNDLES FOR AMERICA TAX-EXEMPT?

Yes. In the manner provided by law.

Bundles for America gave a chance to every patriotic American to participate in the war, to lighten the burden of those who are working, fighting, dying to preserve, our way of life.

Asks Your Aid for Men of the
U. S. Fighting Forces



This Commander of a medium tank is dressed for winter in heavy woolen helmet and knitted gloves such as Bundles for America is furnishing to men of all services of our army and navy.

BUNDLES for AMERICA, INC.
475 Fifth Avenue, New York

National President
MRS. WALES LATHAM

Treasurer

COMMANDER CHARLES HANN, JR.

Directors

MR. ROBERT LIVINGSTON CLARKSON
MRS. JAMES V. FORRESTAL
MR. SAMUEL E. M. CROCKER
MRS. OWEN CATES TORREY

BUNDLES

FOR

AMERICA

Have Joined the Battle

American Sailors are
Braving the Perils of the
Enemy and the Elements

American Soldiers are
Defending Us on the
Battlefronts of the World

**THEY
NEED
OUR
HELP!**

And Bundles for America
Offers an Efficient,
Effective Means
for Aiding Them . . .

National Headquarters
475 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Be the Women... Behind the Men... Behind the Guns!

This means that there must be a branch in every city, town and village in the country. If there is not already a branch in your community, please help us organize one. A letter to National Headquarters will bring full information as to how you can form a branch. Your leadership will enable thousands of citizens to give warm effective expression of their desire to help win this war!

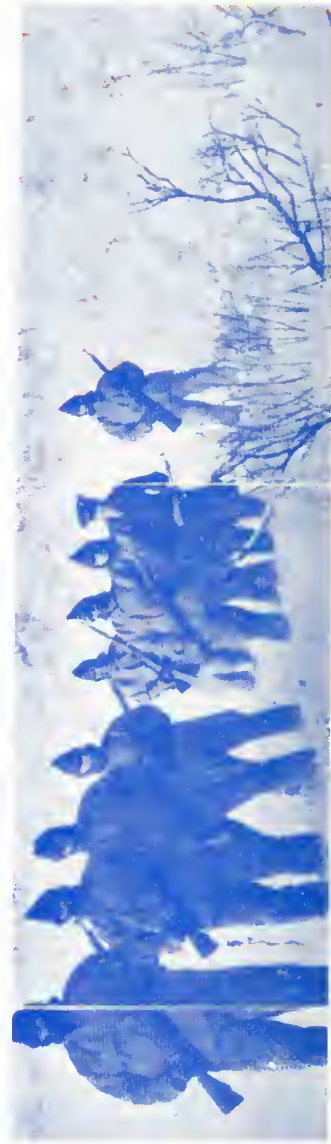


He can sound the alarm against the enemy, but we must help him defeat General Winter!

Bundles for America is dedicated to the aid of America in winning this war. In addition to furnishing comforts and necessities to our fighting forces, we seek to aid the men of our merchant marine, the wives and families of men of our forces and civilians who become casualties of war.

This program requires the help of all. We need volunteers to knit, make garments in our sewing rooms for the wives and babies of our fighting men. To carry on this work effectively, we need contributions of money. No sum is too large or too small.

This is truly the outpouring of aid from the hearts of America. We invite you to be a part of it.



They guard cold, bleak coasts in Alaska. These men brave not only the perils of war, but fight intense cold, too. You can help them through Bundles for America.



has been founded to make it possible for millions of Americans to help our fighting forces. It is probably the simplest organization in the world to join.

Your own desire to help win this war, and any contribution which you make, either of time or money, enrolls you in this great work. But more than this, Bundles for America will give tangible proof each day to our fighting men that we stand close by them, that our hearts are with them wherever they are.

The help you give goes directly to them without red tape, without delay.

The greatest needs of our sailors braving icy waters of the North, and our soldiers on duty in Iceland or other northern posts, now are for warm knitted sweaters, helmets, scarves, socks, gloves and the carefully packed comforts kits which our workers now are making.

If you wish to help knit these garments PLEASE START AT ONCE AND GET THEM IN WITH ALL SPEED, AS THEY ARE MOST URGENTLY NEEDED. You can buy wool at cost in any of our branches and receive official army and navy knitting instructions.

If you wish to make comforts kits, we will tell you how and we urge you here again to start immediately because hundreds of thousands are needed. There are scores of other important tasks awaiting you.

MRS. A. V. BEEKEN

126 WILLARD AVENUE

BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

Your report is fine!
Please stop and see
me some time soon.

E. Beeken -

Oct 27 -

BUNDLES for AMERICA!
There must be a branch in every city, town and village in

the



going, going, gone

This cartoon is dedicated to BUNDLES FOR AMERICA
by Arthur Szyk